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Algebra underperformances at college level: what are the consequences?

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Summary: Many college instructors consider the final problem-solving steps in their respective disciplines as “just algebra”; however, for many college students, a weak foundation in algebra seems to be a source of significant struggle with solving a variety of mathematics problems. The purpose of this chapter is to reveal some typical algebra errors that subsequently plague students’ abilities to succeed in higher-level mathematics courses. The early detection and mindfulness of these errors will aid in the creation of a model for intervention that is specifically designed for students’ needs in each course.

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